

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

The Honorable Wallace R. Hoggatt, Div. 3
Presiding Judge

The Honorable James L. Conlogue, Div. 5
Associate Presiding Judge

The Honorable Ann R. Littrell, Div. 4
Judge

The Honorable Charles A. Irwin, Div. 1
Judge

The Honorable John F. Kelliher Jr., Div. 2
Judge

The Honorable Donna Beumler, Div. 6
Judge Pro-Tempore

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

The Honorable David C. Morales,
Precinct 1, Bisbee

The Honorable Alma Vildosola,
Precinct 2, Douglas

The Honorable Joseph P. Knoblock,
Precinct 3, Benson

The Honorable Trevor Ward,
Precinct 4, Willcox

The Honorable Timothy Dickerson,
Precinct 5, Sierra Vista

The Honorable Michael Skiles,
Precinct 6, Bowie

For more information, call or write:

Alternative Dispute Resolution Program
P. O. Box 204 Bisbee, AZ 85603
(520) 432-8483

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SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
COCHISE COUNTY
**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION
PROGRAM**

**JUVENILE
VICTIM-OFFENDER
CONFERENCING**

PO Box 204
BISBEE, ARIZONA 85603
PHONE: 520-432-8483 FAX: 520-432-8487

WHAT IS JUVENILE VICTIM-OFFENDER CONFERENCING?

Too often in the court process victims and offenders feel like bystanders while judges, lawyers and others work out important issues on their behalf.

Lawyers and judges are a major part of our judicial system. However, for *some* cases, Juvenile Victim-Offender Conferencing (JVOC) is a promising alternative to the traditional court process.

With a trained facilitator, JVOC makes it possible:

- for victims and offenders to be guided through a multi-part process to develop specific agreements that best resolve this incident,
- for the parties to eventually meet face-to-face in a safe environment, and potentially talk together,
- for youth to take personal responsibility for their actions and 'make things right',
- for a victim to get answers about the crime that only the offender can provide,
- to help calm a victim's fears or concerns about what happened,
- and to open the door for more creative and meaningful resolutions than might be possible through court mandated dispositions.

Often, parties who take part in conferencing to resolve their disputes report higher levels of satisfaction with the outcomes. Yet, *no one* will be forced to participate.



CONFERENCING IS:

- A safe and informal meeting of the parties involved.
- Confidential to the extent allowed by law and held in a neutral setting, with a neutral facilitator.
- A non-adversarial alternative to resolving delinquency issues.
- An opportunity for all parties to work together reduce the harm caused by juvenile delinquency.

THE FACILITATOR'S ROLE:

- Facilitators work separately with the parties in advance of the conference
- To answer questions, explain the process, put people at ease, and prepare the parties to work toward productive resolutions once the conference begins.
 - They will help guide the conference discussions to promote communication and understanding between the parties.
 - The facilitator's goal is to assist the parties in reaching resolutions that allow the offenders to take responsibility for their actions and 'make it right'.
 - Facilitators will not take sides. They are not judges and will not decide the outcome.

WHO ARE THE FACILITATORS?

Our facilitators are volunteers from the community with experience and training in effective communication skills and mediation techniques. Each one is appointed and certified by the Presiding Judge of Cochise County.



AS A PARTY TO A JUVENILE VICTIM-OFFENDER CONFERENCING:

Your case was referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program by the Court, or the Juvenile Probation Officer in an effort to resolve all or some of the issues related to this incident.

Upon receiving a referral for JVOC, the ADR Office will assign a facilitator to contact the victim(s) and offender(s) individually.

During these conversations, the facilitator will begin to get a feel for your willingness and ability to participate in good faith during an actual face-to-face conference with the victim or offender. Assuming that you and the other party are in a

position to work together, the facilitator will set a date, time and location for the conference. You will receive a confirmation by mail from the ADR Office.

During the conference, you will again be asked to participate in good faith to work toward some kind of mutually acceptable resolution. The resulting agreements are documented, signed by all parties involved and become part of the official case file. You will receive a copy of the agreement for your records.

Although your situation may be different, JVOC might satisfy only a portion of the offender's obligation. Other times the agreement could represent the end of the case in the court's eyes. Regardless, it's one way to have a real impact on juvenile crime.

